



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*History of the First Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1864.* (Stillwater, Minnesota, Easton and Masterman, printers, 1916. 8, 508 p.)

In its origin and general features this work conforms to the typical Civil War regimental history. It is a compilation made under the direction of a commission composed largely of members of the regiment. Its plan is chronological. It is never uncomplimentary. A roster of the regiment, a number of addresses, and other addenda are included. But in its subject matter the book profits by the distinction which this regiment has long enjoyed. The First Minnesota was the body of men which made good the first tender of volunteer troops in the Civil War. It was the only Minnesota regiment in the Army of the Potomac. Its members were the heroes of a famous charge made at a critical moment in the battle of Gettysburg against overwhelming numbers and at the cost of eighty-two per cent of the men engaged. These and other facts about the regiment, notable and otherwise, are treated by the compiler, R. I. Holcombe, in the spirit and with the understanding possible only to one who himself participated in the great conflict.

The narrative opens with an account of the stirring scenes attendant upon Governor Ramsey's tender of a thousand men to President Lincoln, of the call for volunteers, of the organization and mustering-in of the First Minnesota, of the work of drilling and equipping the men, and of their departure for Washington in response to the call to service in the East. As the regiment soon joined the Army of the Potomac, with which almost its entire three years of service were spent, the greater part of the narrative is concerned with the campaigns and battles of that famous organization in the so-called eastern theatre of the war—Virginia, Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania. The period of inactivity following the regiment's baptism of fire at Bull Run is described as a time of incessant drill, picket duty, and intermittent skirmishes with the enemy. Several chapters are devoted to the Peninsular campaign, in which the pioneers from Minnesota gained distinction by providing for the Union forces a much-needed passage over the Chickahominy by the construction of the so-called grapevine bridge over that stream.

At Antietam, Fredericksburg, and in minor engagements the Minnesotans acquitted themselves well, but the climax of the regiment's career was reached when, at Gettysburg, in the words of James J. Hill, Colonel Colvill "shouted the 'Charge' that sent the First Minnesota to death and glory where the Nation's future was wavering in the balance." After Gettysburg nothing of especial interest is recounted of the surviving remnant of the regiment, unless it be the description of the trip to New York City, whither it was sent to prevent a repetition of the draft riots of July, 1863. The story closes with an account of the regiment's return to Minnesota in 1864 at the end of its term of service, of the reception accorded it in Washington, and of the heroes' welcome it received at home.

Although it was the avowed purpose of the compilers to include extended accounts of the operations of other troops only when needed "to properly frame the actions or services of the regiment," the amount of space devoted to such material is very considerable, and might well have been reduced by condensations and by the elimination of a few lengthy repetitions. The reader never entirely loses sight of the regiment, however, and the readableness of the narrative is enhanced by inspiring passages, humorous incidents, information about names and places, and a style of writing in which there occasionally crop out colloquialisms of both ancient and modern vintage.

In general, the book is reliable, though it is well to examine the grounds for particular assertions. For example, on page 2 appears the statement that Governor Ramsey, after his tender of troops to Lincoln, "promptly telegraphed the acting Governor of Minnesota, Lieut-Gov. Ignatius Donnelly, instructing him to issue an immediate call for volunteers." This is evidently drawn from Lieutenant William Lochren's "Narrative of the First Regiment" in *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars* (volume 1, page 2). But on page 2 of the second volume of the same work appears a copy of a telegram from Ramsey to Adjutant General Acker directing him to issue a proclamation in his (Ramsey's) name. Also, a letter in the Donnelly Papers leaves no doubt that Donnelly received no such order, and that he issued the proclamation on his own initiative as acting governor.

From the point of view of the student of history more complete references to authorities would have been desirable. The authority most frequently cited is referred to by the use of the author's name alone. Inasmuch as this work happens to be included in a volume with a number of others, it is not easily located. The book contains half-tone engravings of Governor Ramsey, of the four successive colonels of the regiment, of monuments and tablets commemorating the regiment's deeds, and of members of the commission in charge of the preparation of the history. There are four maps illustrative of the operations centering at Gettysburg. The index is quite inadequate, and there is no list of maps and illustrations.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

*Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Its Sixty-third Annual Meeting, October 21, 1915.* (Madison, the society, 1916. 231 p.)

As is customary in the series to which it belongs, this volume contains the minutes of the annual meeting of the society, the report of the executive committee, reports of auxiliary societies, the annual address, and a number of historical papers, which were read by title only at the meeting. The report of the executive committee is an admirable statement of the activities of the society for the year ending September 30, 1915, with suggestions for "future expansion." The society's disbursements for the year, exclusive of two large items for property repairs and insurance, amounted to about fifty-eight thousand dollars, of which nearly forty thousand dollars were for services and thirteen thousand for books, furniture, museum exhibits, and binding.

Notable among the manuscript acquisitions reported is a set of the papers of the federal commission on industrial relations, consisting of the exhaustive reports of investigations and hearings which formed the basis of the published report of the commission. This is a duplicate of the set filed with the bureau of labor at Washington, and contains material of immense value for "economists of the present day, as well as historians of the future." The extensive search which the society has carried on for a number of years in the United States archives at Washington has